

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064874

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT UN: VISIT OF BLUE HOUSE
SECRETARY

1. KOREAN EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US, WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT, THAT IT HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM SEOUL INDICATING THAT BLUE HOUSE ADVISOR KIM KYONG-WON WISHES TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON KOREAN QUESTION.

2. ACCORDING EMBASSY, KIM'S PURPOSE IS TO HAVE EXTENSIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HERE IN ORDER TO "NARROW THE GAP" BETWEEN US AND ROK POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO HANDLING OF KOREAN QUESTION, KIM HAS CONVEYED LENGTHY LIST OF SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICERS WITH WHOM HE WISHES TO MEET.

3. WE ARE FRANKLY RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE -N FREE-WHEELING DISCUSSIONS WITH KIM ON KOREAN QUESTION. WE CAN ONLY SEE CONFUSION AND POSSIBLY SOME HARM COMING FROM VISIT
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HERE ALONG LINES KIM WISHES. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE IT IS

ESSENTIAL TO KEEP FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS ON KOREAN QUESTION WITHIN NORMAL CHANNELS. CONSEQUENTLY, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO INFORMALLY DISCOURAGE KIM'S VISIT, WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE. IN DOING SO,

YOU MAY INDICATE THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO HAVE ONE MORE ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL NEXT WEEK BEFORE CORE GROUP MEETING.

4. IN EVENT YOU BELIEVE THAT NOT POSSIBLE, SENIOR EA AND IO OFFICERS INVOLVED IN KOREAN QUESTION WOULD BE AVAILABLE MARCH 22-23. WE WOULD NOT INTEND TO SCHEDULE ANY DISCUSSIONS ON KOREAN QUESTION FOR KIM OUTSIDE THESE BUREAUS.

5. AS EMBASSY AWARE, WE ARE ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT ROKG'S APPROACH ON KOREAN QUESTION. THIS ATTEMPT BY KIM TO INVOLVE HIMSELF DIRECTLY, AND TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR CONSULTATIONS TO THIS AD HOC CHANNEL CAN ONLY BRING FURTHER CONFUSION, GIVEN HIS PENCHANT FOR SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT.

6. REQUEST YOUR VIEWS. WE WILL WANT TO RESPOND KOREAN EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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